

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10
NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05
/062 W

-----252307Z 113700 /45

O P 252125Z MAR 77
FM US MISSION NATO
TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2454
ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY 6978

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1733

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USIA OPERATIONS CENTER PASS IMMEDIATELY IPS/PE LAFE ALLEN

EO11652 N/A
TAGS NATO PFOR OVIP (SECDEF BROWN)
SUBJECT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAROLD BROWN'S NATO PRESS CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING IS THE VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HAROLD BROWN'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT NATO HEADQUARTERS IN
BRUSSELS, FRIDAY, MARCH 25, TOGETHER WITH QUESTIONS AND THE
SECRETARY'S ANSWERS:
BEGIN TRANSCRIPT:

THE SECRETARY: GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I'M
ASSURED BY MY COLLEAGUES THAT THERE IS A GREAT POPULAR DEMAND
FOR MY APPEARANCE BEFORE YOU THIS EVENING. THAT REMAINS TO
BE SEEN. THIS HAS BEEN MY FIRST VISIT TO EUROPE AS SECRETARY
OF DEFENSE. I'M NOT SURE WHETHER IT'S MY SEVENTIETH OR
EIGHTIETH OR HUNDREDTH ALTOGETHER BUT I FIND THAT THE NATURE
OF THE TRIP AND THE PACE OF THE ACTIVITIES IS QUITE DIFFERNT
IN MY PRESENT CAPACITY. YESTERDAY I SPENT WITH AMERICAN TROOPS
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IN THE TRAINING AREA AT GRAFENWOEHR, IN GERMANY, OBSERVING TANK
AND ARTILLERY TRAINING AND EXERCISES. LAST EVENING I ARRIVED
IN BRUSSELS AND MET WITH SOME OF MY MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES AND
OTHERS LAST EVENING AND EARLY THIS MORNING. THEN SINCE 1100
THIS MORNING I'VE BEEN MEETING WITH THOSE COLLEAGUES AT THE
NATO DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING. THE COMMITMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES TO THE ALLIANCE, TO THE SECURITY OF THE
ALLIES OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY IS A STRONG ONE, AND IT'S
A COMMITMENT THAT HAS BEEN REPEATED AND REEMPHASIZED BY THE

NEW ADMINISTRATION. TO SIGNAL THAT, PRESIDENT CARTER SENT A MESSAGE TO THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH I READ TO THEM THIS MORNING AND I WOULD BE PLEASED TO REPEAT IT NOW BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT IT CONVEYS THAT COMMITMENT VERY WELL. LET ME QUOTE IT.

"FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY A STRONG AND VITAL NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE HAS BEEN A CORNERSTONE OF AMERICAN POLICY. TODAY MARKS THE FIRST OCCASION ON WHICH A REPRESENTATIVE OF MY ADMINISTRATION MEETS IN MINISTERIAL COUNCIL WITH OUR ALLIES. I WANT TO CONVEY TO YOU THROUGH SECRETARY BROWN MY STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE ALLIANCE AND MY PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE WORK IN WHICH YOU AS DEFENSE MINISTERS ARE ENGAGED.

"WHEN VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE MET WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL IN PERMANENT SESSION IN LATE JANUARY, HE STATED THAT MY NEW GUDGET WOULD NOT RESULT IN ANY DECREASE IN PLANNED INVESTMENT IN NATO DEFENSE AND WOULD INVOLVE SOME GROWTH. THE VICE PRESIDENT ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT I WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER INCREASED INVESTMENT IN NATO DEFENSE AND THAT THE US LOOKS TO ITS ALLIES TO JOIN WITH IT IN IMPROVING NATO DEFENSE FORCES TO THE LIMIT OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL ABILITIES. THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR FY 78 I SUBMITTED CALLS FOR AN INCREASE IN EXPENDITURES IN CONSTANT DOLLARS OF 5 PERCENT OVER FY 77. MUCH OF THIS INCREASE IS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN STOCKS, ARMAMENT, READINESS AND COMBAT CAPABILITY IN US FORCES IN EUROPE. THIS GOVERNMENT MEANS WHAT IT SAYS.

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"THE COLLECTIVE ENTERPRISE UPON WHICH YOU ARE DECIDING TODAY IS IMPORTANT TO THE ALLIANCE AND TO OUR MUTUAL SECURITY. I WISH YOU ALL A SUCCESSFUL MEETING". JIMMY CARTER

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05

/062 W

-----252310Z 114133 /45

O 252125Z MAR 77

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2455

ALL NATO CAPITALS 6979

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SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
USIA OPERATIONS CENTER PASS IMMEDIATELY IPS/PE LAFE ALLEN

THE MEETING TODAY WAS CENTERED, AS YOU KNOW FROM SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS' PRESS CONFERENCE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING, ON THE NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING CAPABILITY AND A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM TO ACHIEVE SUCH A CAPABILITY. I BELIEVE THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING WAS CONSTRUCTIVE--THAT SUBSTANTIAL STEPS FORWARD IN THAT DIRECTION HAVE BEEN TAKEN TODAY, AND I AM PLEASED THAT MY FIRST MEETING WITH MY COLLEAGUES, THE OTHER DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE NATO NATIONS, HAS HAD A CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME. I WOULD BE GLAD TO TAKE A FEW QUESTIONS.

QUESTION: WE'RE A LITTLE BEMUSED AT JUST WHAT WAS DECIDED TODAY. HAVE YOU OR HAVE YOU NOT DECIDED TO TAKE AWACS OR HAVE WE STILL GOT A SITUATION WHERE WE COULD HAVE TWO DIFFERENT SYSTEMS IN USE WITHIN THE ALLIANCE?

THE SECRETARY: WELL, THE COMMUNIQUE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. NOT ALL NATIONS ARE EQUALLY COMMITTED TO DETAILS BUT THERE IS SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM AND, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY COMPETENT
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NATIONAL AUTHORITIES, DECISION WAS REACHED THAT AN AWACS EARLY WARNING SYSTEM WILL BE ESTABLISHED. THE UK RESERVATION IS CONTAINED IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU SAY, SIR, THAT IT HAS BEEN A CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME IF AN IDEA OF COMBINING THE TWO SYSTEMS, NIMROD AND AWACS, WOULD BE CONSIDERED?

THE SECRETARY: WELL, CONSIDERATION IS NOT AN OUTCOME. I BELIEVE THAT IT'S IMPORTANT POLITICALLY FOR THE ALLIANCE TO AGREE ON A SINGLE PROGRAM AND I THINK THAT A SINGLE PROGRAM IS BEST HANDLED WITH A SINGLE SYSTEM. THE OUTCOME TODAY IS EXPLAINED IN THE COMMUNIQUE.

QUESTION: SIR, SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS, IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AND WEST GERMANY, MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRAM IN TODAY'S MEETING. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION IN THIS REGARD WAS?

THE SECRETARY: THE U.S. EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE A SHARE OF THE COST OF SUCH A PROGRAM IN EXCESS OF WHAT IT HAD PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED ITSELF TO, BY A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT--AN INCREASE IF I RECALL CORRECTLY OF ABOUT 5 PER CENT.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY ARE YOU STILL TALKING IN TERMS OF THE 27 PLANES AND THE KIND OF PRICE TAG WHICH WAS MENTIONED BEFORE?

THE SECRETARY: WELL, I THINK THAT REMAINS IN THE GENERAL BALL PARK. AS THE COMMUNIQUE INDICATES, DETAILS OF NATIONALLY SUITABLE COST SHARING, WHICH INCLUDES TOTAL COSTS OF COURSE, AND SOME OTHER STILL OPEN QUESTIONS WHICH I SUPPOSE MIGHT INVOLVE PHASING OF THE TOTAL AIRCRAFT BUY REMAIN OPEN. AND, OF COURSE, NOTHING IS FINALLY DECIDED UNTIL NATIONS ARE ON UNCLASSIFIED
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THE LINE HAVING GONE THROUGH THE NATIONAL PROCEDURES THAT I REFERRED TO HERE.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY DO YOU THINK THAT AN EFFICIENT AWACS FORCE COULD BE MADE WITHOUT GREAT BRITAIN AND IF NATO ALLIES WOULD NOT GO IN THE AWACS PROGRAM WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO DEPLOY AMERICAN AWACS IN THE EUROPEAN THEATRE?

THE SECRETARY: I AM ON RECORD WITH RESPECT TO THAT LATTER QUESTION AND I WILL REPEAT WHAT I HAVE SAID BEFORE OUR OWN CONGRESS. THERE IS A NEED FOR AN AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM THAT WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE BOTH DETECTIN OF LOW-FLYING, INTRUDING AIRCRAFT AND CONTROL OF THE AIR BATTLE --PROVIDE AN AIRBORNE COMMAND AND CONTROL POST FOR THE AIR BATTLE. THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE E-3, THE AWACS, IS BY FAR THE BEST SOLUTION FOR THAT REQUIREMENT. THE UNITED STATES AGREES WITH THAT CONCLUSION. IT WILL NOT, NOWEVER, TRY TO PUSH DOWN THE THROATS OF ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES SUCH A SOLUTION. IF THE EUROPEAN ALLIES CONCLUDE THAT THEY DON'T WANT TO BUY SUCH A SYSTEM, I THINK THAT IS THEIR DECISION TO MAKE. BUT IN THAT CASE, THE US WILL NOT GIVE THEM SUCH A SYSTEM.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY I WANT TO CONFIRM PREVIOUS ESTIMATES ABOUT THE US PROPORTION IN SHARING THE COST OF AWACS WHEREAS IT WERE PUT AT 28 PER CENT, WOULD THIS NOW MEAN THAT THE US WOULD NOW PAY 1/3 OF THE TOTAL COST AND WOULD THE PROPORTION OF GERMANY BE REDUCED?

THE SECRETARY: TWENTY-EIGHT PLUS FIVE IS THIRTY-THREE AND THAT IS THE CORRECT ANSWER. THE SHARES AS THIS INDICATES REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END TRANSCRIPT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 30-Aug-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703110/baaabcol.tel
Line Count: 221
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2963587
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040809
Subject: SUBJECT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAROLD BROWN'S NATO PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: OVIP
To: SECDEF USIA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/099f01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009